

REMARKS

Claims 34-39 and 43-54 are pending in the application upon entry of the amendments and new claims. Claims 34 and 36-38 have been amended for consistency and to better describe certain aspects of the invention. Claims 43-54 have been added to further describe the invention. Claims 1-33 and 40-42 have been cancelled without prejudice in view of the Restriction Requirement. Favorable reconsideration in light of the amendments, the new claims, and the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

The Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claim 36 contains allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Independent claim 34 has been amended to disclaim the cited art by including the allowable subject matter of claim 36. New independent claim 46 is similar to claim 34 except that a size feature is additionally included.

The Obviousness Rejection

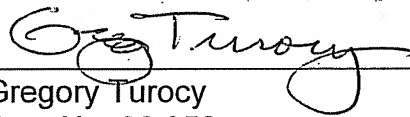
Claims 34, 35, 37, 38, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over European Patent 1 101 530 and submitted art. Since the allowable subject matter of claim 36 has been incorporated into the independent claims, the rejection is rendered moot.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

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